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Titusville Amateur Radio Club

TARC NEWSLETTER

May 1989

Officers

President: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779
Vice Pres: Bob Nedimeyer W4VQB 269-1878
Secretary: Dennis Wren N4SDI 269-1762
Treasurer: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

President's Corner

Thanks to the TARC group for responding to **Wynn's (WB4ZUY)** request for communications support for the **Bicycle Marathon**. Even though there was a short notice on call for help, with Wynn's leadership the cyclists (most of them, anyway) got out of our repeater range.

Thanks also to **Pike (W4EPU)** for the effort he and his troops provided at the Indian River Raft Race.

Be sure to plan for the **Field Day** activities. For details, see **Wayne's (KB4YLY)** write-up elsewhere in this issue.

Minutes of the April 25 Meeting

The April meeting was called to order at 7:07. Bud (K4CWG) had everyone introduce themselves. The minutes of the March meeting were read and accepted. Clyde (K4EOS) gave the treasury report with a balance of $353.88 and $18.51 petty cash, this was accepted. Clyde also reported the phone bill is now a lower rate.

Pike (W4EPU) brought up information on the raft race. Doug (N4QVY) thanked everyone who contributed to last months newsletter. Bud (K4CWG) also thanked the ones that helped fold and stamp them. Les (K4SJC) gave a repeater report. He said that the new power supply is working fine. A work party was up at the repeater site and moved the east dipole towards the west to improve coverage. The 444.15 machine was also put up at the water tower. Wynn (WB4ZUY) reported that he is waiting for some parts for the logic package. He is also looking at a new design to lower the chip count.

Wayne (KB4YLY) reported that he is looking for someone to take care of food for field day. Most of the antennas are ready and the club will be 5A. Archie (WN3DHI) will supply the generator. It will be held at Draa field again this year. Wayne says he is looking for people to help setup and tear down. Ozzie (N4SCY) will take care of publicity. Bud (K4CWG) brought up getting the information on field

See **Minutes** on back.

Upcoming Events

> **May 23**, June 27 – next TARC meetings, 7 p.m., JayCees Building on Singleton Ave.
> Every Thursday night – TARC Friendship Net, 7 p.m., 146.91 MHz (–600)
> 3rd Saturday of each month – SBARC / ARRL exams, 9:30 a.m. registration, FIT room Q22 in The Quad (under ham radio mast). For info call Jim Larson, home phone 768–1954 evenings.
> March 23–25, 1990 (tentative) – Orlando Hamcation, Orange County Civic Center (I–4, Exit 29)
> **June 16 – Deadline** for articles to be included in the June edition of the *TARC Newsletter.*
> **June 24–25** – Field Day, Setup @ 9 a.m. ET, operating from 2 p.m. for 24 hours. Contact Wayne (KB4YLY) @ 267–0318 for more info.

May's Featured Speaker
by Bob Nedimyer W4VQB

Our featured speaker for the May meeting will be Bruce Hoover, K4KON, presenting an insider's view as an official photographer at KSC launches. Bruce is a captivating speaker and will enthrall you with the sometimes 'negative' subject: "The Spaced Out View Through My Lens."

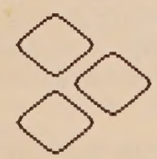
Raft Race Kudos
Submitted by Pike Abell W4EPU

Here is a great big attaboy for the following people who participated in providing communications for the officials running the Indian River Raft Race: Les / K4SJC, Lloyd / KA4LTK, Ozzie / N4SCY, Bud / K4CWG, Emil / WB1DBZ, Ron / N4SCZ, Clyde / K4EOS, Bob / W4VQB, and Pike / W4EPU. Attaboy fellows. Good job.

Classifieds

For sale: Osborne I computer (CP/M), good condition, with moniter and original software w/ manuals, $150, Wayne / 267–0318.

Printing Courtesy Of



Brevard Office Equipment Inc.
269–2327

Cross Florida Bicycle Tour a Big Success
By
Wynn Rostek WB4ZUY

The Cross Florida Bicycle Tour took place Sunday, May 7th. As most of you know our club was asked to provide communications support for this event. The Tour started in Cocoa Beach at 6:30 am Sunday morning and ended at Pine Island (west of Weeki Wachee) that evening. Eight hams from our club turned out to support this event along with 4 additional hams. This was the first year the tour had communications support.

The riders took a somewhat roundabout route in order to stay on back roads where possible. Along the route, about 20 miles apart were a series of "SAG" points where riders could get some water and grab a quick snack. (we've asked around, nobody knows what SAG stands for, but we did hear some colorful guesses)

Most of the hams provided support at SAG points. We tried to have 2 hams stationed at each SAG point within the section of the route we covered, but we ran a bit short and only had 1 ham at SAG point 4. One brave soul (Amy Duffy, KC4CFD) rode in the roving van and helped to coordinate the moving of supplies of water and food between SAG points.

Ozzie (N4SCY) and Pike (W4EPU) helped at the starting point and Pike monitored the race from several points along the route to Titusville, racing from point to point as the last rider went past. Staying ahead of the riders turned out to be harder than we thought it would as the fast riders averaged more than 20 MPH!

Communications at SAG point 1 in Christmas was provided by Steve Luchuck (N4UTQ) and Doug (N4QVY). Steve Schindler (WD4MJJ) and Les (K4SJC) took care of comm at SAG point 2 in Oviedo. Val (WB4ZUZ0 and I (WB4ZUY) provided communications at SAG point 3 at the entrance to Wekiwa Springs State Park. Phil Duffy (N4QOI) provided communications and manned SAG point 4 (southwest of Tavares) for the bicycle club. (Phil is a member of the bicycle club and was our contact point for setting up the communications support)

The riders are provided an emergency number to call in case they get lost. Bud (K4CWG) manned a base station in Titusville providing a link to the roving van. Messages received at the emergency number would be relayed via land line to Bud, who would then forward the messages via the repeaters to the hams at the SAG points and to the roving van. Thankfully there was no emergency traffic this year.

This operation was a bit different from the normal communication support the club provides because we had hams spread out across half the state. Operations were conducted on the 147.03 machine briefly during the start of the race and the 146.91 machine was used to support communications for SAG points 1 and 2 for the first 4 hours. The 145.11 machine provided communications for SAG points 3 and 4.

Hams at SAG points 1 and 2 used both the 146.91 and the 145.11 machines for handling traffic and

See **Bicycle Tour** next column.

TARC Field Day Activities
June 24-25, 1989
by Wayne Sarosi KB4YLY
Field Day Chairman

Oh No! Not field day again! Hey, no problem. Field day is ready to go. All you have to do is show up and operate (hi hi). I'm sure I can count on the few to support the many.

This year we have five HF stations and one VHF / packet setup. We also have a good set of HF antennas:

3 element 10 meter yagi
3 element 15 meter yagi
3 element 20 meter yagi
2 element 40 meter yagi
Inverted (tuneable) 80 meter Vee
2 meter beam for packet

This year we are a 5A / NFL and I've set a goal for the top 20% in the point gathering. The publicity, antennas, cabling, radios, food, masts, generators, and setup / cleanup crews are ready.

Now we need operators! With five rigs and twenty-four hours of operation, you can see the need for people. We have over eighty members in our club. With the material needs of field day met, the rest is up to you.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the antennas and services needed to conduct this years event.

Bicycle Tour...

Pike and Ozzie used the 147.03 and 146.91 machines. Bud used the base station to access all three machines, turning it all into an extended communications network covering 100 miles of florida roads.

Most of the traffic handled was concerned with where the lead riders, the bulk of the riders and the last riders were along the route. Additional traffic was handled to coordinate movement of supplies between SAG points by the roving and following vans. (The following van follows the last rider and picks up any riders that have to drop out) The bicycle club was very impressed with the job the hams did and were extremely pleased with how much easier their job was with communications support.

The hams seemed to have enjoyed the day and most participants have expressed interest in supporting the event next year. Plans are under way to involve a central Florida club and a west coast club in next year's tour, giving coast to coast communications support. This is sure to be an education operation for the hams involved as we seldom get any practice covering these kinds of distances with VHF handhelds!

I would like to thank the club for the use of the repeater, and extend a special thanks to all the hams that turned out to support this event. I'd also like to extend a note of gratitude to Steve Schindler who secured permission to use the 145.11 machine on very short notice. Without Steve's help, communications to SAG points 3 and 4 would have been difficult at best.

Fun With The 20 Meter Beacon
by Bob Nedimyer – W4VQB

If you can't find an interesting QSO on the air, tune to 14.100 and listen to the world coming in via the 20 meter beacon net. Starting precisely on the hour and repeating every ten minutes, you should have no trouble hearing the first one, 4UN1UN/B from New York City. After his ID at 20 wpm, he'll sen a series of short transmissions at 100, 10, 1 and 0.10 watts. These are 10 db steps and should enlighten you about what a station sounds like when he decreases power by ten times. After the transmission from NYC you should usually be able to copy W6WX/B in California. This will be a repeat of the same transmissions at various power levels. Tnen the fun begins as you try to follow the next transmission from Hawaii and on to the other points around the globe. It may take hours to copy them all or only ten minutes when the propogation is fantastic. Here is a list of calls, their sequence, and the program that they follow:

Minute	Call	Location
0	4UN1UN/B	New York City
1	W6WX/B	California
2	KH6O/B	Hawaii
3	JA2IGY	Japan
4	4X4TU/B	Israel
5	OH2B	Finland
6	CT3B	Portugal
7	ZS6DN/B	South Africa
8	LU4AA/B	Argentina
9	____	____

10 Start over with 4UN1UN/B

Transmission Format:

Station call followed by:

100 W: _____ (9 second dash)
10 W: ._____
1 W: ..._____
.1 W: ...._____

There are plans to enlarge this network and also to transmit on the 21 and 28 MHz bands.

HR ARRL BULLETIN NR 019 ARLB019
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CT
MAY 1, 1989
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

The 40th annual Armed Forces Day will be held on May 20 and 21. Special commemorative QSL cards will be issued to amateurs contacting the participating military stations. Those who receive and accurately copy the Armed Forces Day CW and/or RTTY message from the Secretary of Defense will receive a special commemorative certificate. Crossband contacts with military stations will be conducted from 1300Z May 20 03OOZ May 1, The RTTY test, at 60 WPM with 170 HZ shift, will begin at 0345Z ON May 21. See May QST, page 106, for calls and frequencies of participating military stations and complete details of the receiving tests.

AR

Special Event Station
20th Anniversary of the First Manned Lunar Landing
Apollo XI
by Wayne Sarosi – KB4YLY

This is a first for TARC. On July 20, 1989 this club will participate as a special event station. Here is some info:

- You can operate from your home on your own rig.
- Forms are provided.
- You can use your own call.
- We have coordinated with NASA and can use Kennedy Space Center as the QTH.
- You can operate at your leisure.
- All QSL's are answered by KB4YLY.
- Special Apollo emblem for participants.

So basically all you have to do is turn on your rig and write down your contacts on a provided log. When you're done, turn in the log to KB4YLY. That's it!

More info will be available at the May and June club meetings.

About CW
Opinion by Pike Abell W4EPU

There is serious consideration in the ARRL and FCC for discontinuing the requirements for CW capabilities for licensing of amateur radio operators. The probable reason being that it is felt that CW is becoming a lost or dying art. Believe me, CW is very much alive. As indications of this, every commercial ship at sea is required by international law to have a radio officer aboard capable of sending and receiving CW at the rate of 20 WPM or faster. This is in case of a need for emergency communications if all other means fail. In the U. S. State Department Diplomatic communications system, the last resort for backup communications is CW radio. Therefore, every American embassy has at least one qualified CW operator assigned. I may add that it is not at all unusual even at the present time for Embassy operators to resort to CW communications because of the failure of other means. Even though CW is one of the slowest means of modern communications, it is and will be in the foreseeable future the most reliable. As for amateur radio, I believe that in a short time after eliminating CW as a prerequisite for amateur radio licenses the amateur band will be overcrowded. I am told by many of my good friends who have to rely on CB for recreational and emergency communications that the CB band is cluttered with foul language and unethical solicitations. Is it not possible that a percentage of the new, no CW required, ham operators will be of the class and integrity that have spoiled the CB band? Therefore, the requirement to learn CW may be considered a useful tool in weeding out undesirables in amateur radio. Maybe it's because it takes a reasonably intelligent person to learn CW. This, no doubt, contributes greatly to the weeding out process.

The **TARC Newsletter** is (usually) published on a monthly basis. Articles are published based on their newsworthiness to TARC membership, space available, and ease of entry to the publishing medium.

Preferred transfer methods are EMail to N4QVY at Tech-Talk BBS, EMail on 2 meter packet to N4QVY@KB4LB or N4QVY@WD4HIM, direct packet, 3.5" AmigaDOS 880K disk, 3.5" MS-DOS 360K or 720K disk, 5.25" MS-DOS 360K disk, direct landline modem, and print / hand-written / hardcopy formats, in that order. Separate each paragraph with a blank line for ease of re-formatting a publishing format.

Article / classified deadline is two Fridays prior to the date of the monthly meeting. The next deadline is **June 16**.

Articles may be given to the editor, Doug – N4QVY, at the IHOP on net nights, or left with Bud – K4CWG, where it will hopefully make its way to the aforementioned editor.

The Editor's Desk

Thanks to all of this month's contributors: Wynn, Wayne, Pike, Bob, and our ever consistent President, Bud. I received additional material from Val and Lloyd, however, the sum total was too much for four pages and not *quite* enough for six. To be published in next month's issue, I promise.

Field Day is almost here! Don't be afraid to come on down and join in the fun. We will have operating positions both in the press box at Draa Field and on

See **Desk** next column.

Minutes...

day put on TCI channel 9. Wayne also reported that as there was not much interest shown in the fox hunt; it has been postponed until later this year.

Bud (K4CWG) thanked Val (WB4ZUZ) for her story on the hamfest. This brought up a few stories, some good and some not so good.

It was brought up that the Cross Florida bicycle marathon is looking for volunteers to supply communications. Les (K4SJC) mentioned that Bud (K4CWG) had received a letter of when to bid on a radio that could be used as a repeater. After some discussion of buying someone elses problems there was a motion to send in a bid of $XX, this was passed (*actual amount will not be published pending awarding of bid – ed.*). The code/no code debate was brought up again with some discussion. The meeting ended at 8:26.

Desk...

the ground. The field will certainly appear like an antenna farm with the multitude of antennas that Wayne has constructed.

Until next month,
73, Doug / N4QVY